

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown on the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

18. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1.

19. (Amended) An AP-1 activation inhibitor or a NF-kappaB activation inhibitor comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1.

20. (Amended) An inflammatory cytokine production inhibitor, a production inhibitor for matrix metalloprotease or an inflammatory cell adhesion factor expression inhibitor comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claims 18-20 to remove improper multiple dependencies. Accordingly, support for amended Claims 18-20 can be found in the same claims.

No new matter has been added. Claims 1-20 are active in this application.